



Department of Defense Quarterly Suicide Report Calendar Year 2015 3rd Quarter

**Defense Suicide
Prevention Office
(DSPO)**

**Keita Franklin, Ph.D.
Director, DSPO**





Department of Defense Quarterly Suicide Report Calendar Year 2015 Third Quarter

Introduction

Timely and accurate suicide data reporting allows leaders at all levels to have near real time information that facilitates decision-making related to suicide prevention. Timeliness in reporting Department of Defense (DoD) statistics on suicide mortality is a core issue affecting the focus of DoD suicide prevention efforts. One of the principal goals of this Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) is to improve the timeliness and availability of data to bolster suicide prevention efforts. Additionally, stakeholders external to DoD can access the information included in the QSR to obtain information on deaths by suicide within the DoD.

The QSR summarizes suicide counts for the Active Component and the Reserve Component (Reserve and the National Guard). The 2015 third quarter DoD QSR shows calendar year 2015 first, second, and third quarter suicides for each of the military Services.

Data Sources

Suicide Data

Suicide¹ mortality data in this report are provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) with inputs from the suicide prevention programs of the individual military services.

The numbers of suicides depicted in Table 1 of this document are broken down by component, Regular or Reserve², and Service.

For the Active Component, the number of suicides provided also includes the Cadets and Midshipmen at the military academies.

The data provided for the Reserve Component includes Reserve and National Guard suicides regardless of the Service member's duty status³ at the time of death.

For Service members not tracked by AFMES (e.g., National Guard or Reserve Service members not in active duty status), the suicide data originate from civilian authorities and are made available through the military Services to AFMES.

¹ The term suicide is defined as "Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with an intent to die as a result of the behavior" (Reference: CDC--<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/definitions.html>)

² The Reserve Component refers collectively to the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve when the Coast Guard is operating as a Service of the Department of the Navy.

³ Reserve Component personnel included in this report are those personnel are defined as members assigned to National Guard or Reserve units who are subject to mobilization. This excludes those members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING).



Military retirees and members in Temporary or Permanent Disability Retired Lists (TDRL, PDRL) are not included in this report as those data may overlap with Department of Veterans Affairs data.

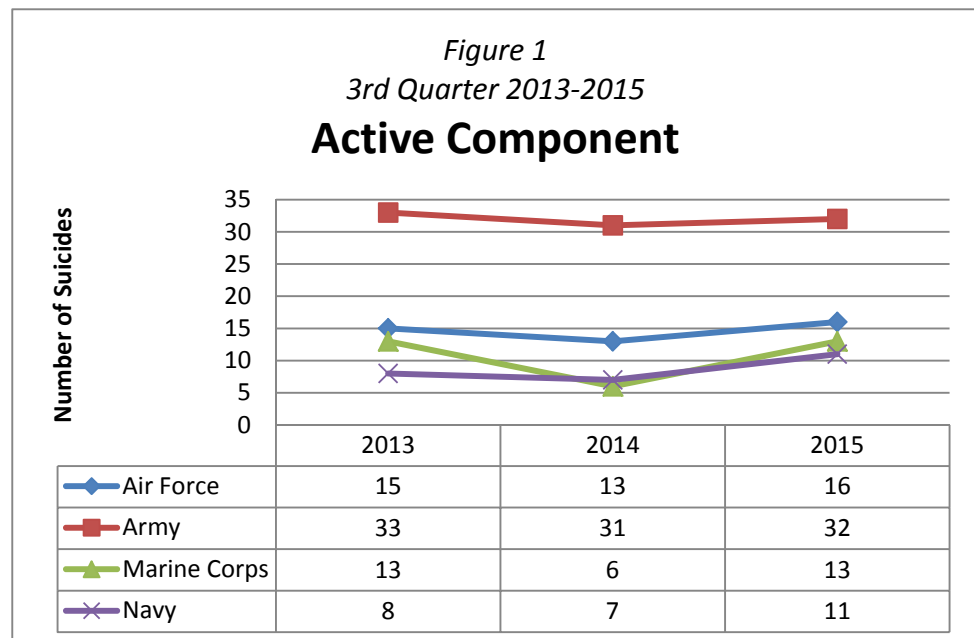
Results

In the third quarter of 2015, the military Services reported that there were 72 Active Component suicides and 70 Reserve Component suicides with 38 suicides in the Reserves and 32 in the National Guard. Please refer to Figure One for a detailed breakdown of the number of suicides within each Service and component through the third quarter of 2015.

Discussion

Active Component

A review of the data found in Table 1, for the third quarter of 2013, 2014 and 2015, indicates there were fewer suicides in the third quarter of 2014 compared to the third quarter of 2013 (57 versus 69) while there were more suicides in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 (72 versus 57) within the Active Component. Figure 1 depicts the Active Component data for these time frames.

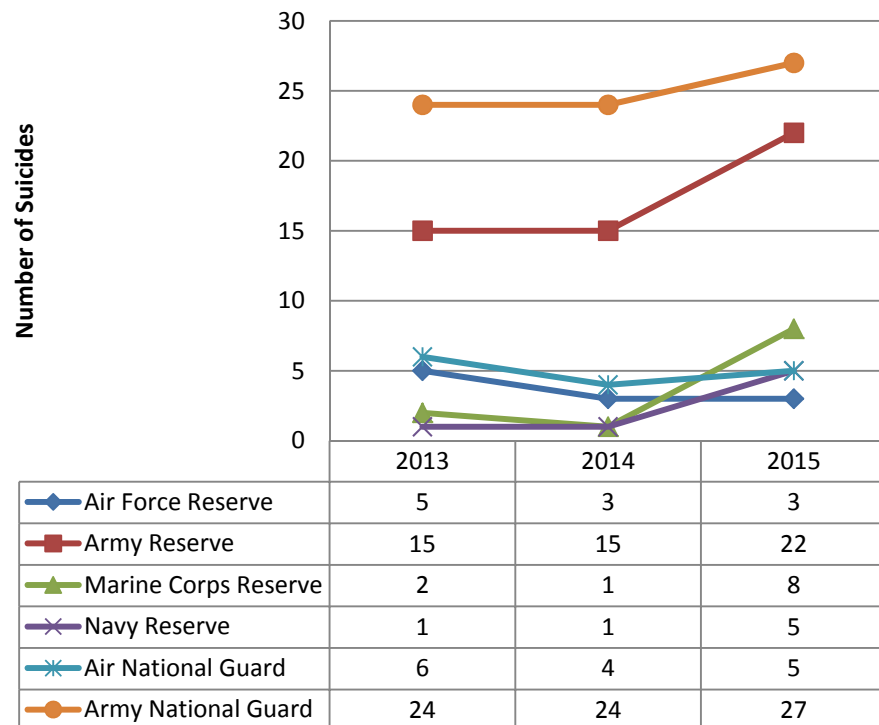




Reserve Component

Within the Reserve Component a review of the data found in Table 1 indicates there were fewer suicides in the third quarter of 2014 when compared to the third quarter of 2013 (48 versus 53) while there were more suicides in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter 2014 (70 versus 48). Figure 2 depicts the Reserve Component data for these time frames.

Figure 2
3rd Quarter 2013-2015
Reserve Component



Any questions related to this report should be forwarded to: osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.defense-suicide-prevention-office@mail.mil



Attachment

Table 1. Suicides by Component and Service

DoD Service and Component	2012	2013					2014					2015			
	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2013	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total 2014	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total 2015
Active Component	321	67	60	69	58	254	73	70	57	73	273	59	71	72	202
Air Force	50	7	14	15	12	48	19	11	13	19	62	14	17	16	47
Army	165	33	27	33	27	120	27	31	31	35	124	32	28	32	92
Marine Corps	48	11	12	13	9	45	11	9	6	8	34	3	12	13	28
Navy	58	16	7	8	10	41	16	19	7	11	53	10	14	11	35
Reserve Component	204	55	56	53	56	220	46	34	48	42	170	42	49*	70	161
Reserve	72	27	16	23	20	86	24	14	20	21	79	13	21*	38	72
Air Force Reserve	3	1	2	5	3	11	2	1	3	4	10	1	1	3	5
Army Reserve	50	21	11	15	12	59	13	4	15	10	42	9	17*	22	48
Marine Corps Reserve	11	4	1	2	4	11	4	5	1	2	12	1	1	8	10
Navy Reserve	8	1	2	1	1	5	5	4	1	5	15	2	2	5	9
National Guard	132	28	40	30	36	134	22	20	28	21	91	29	28*	32	89
Air National Guard	22	2	2	6	4	14	6	2	4	2	14	8	5	5	18
Army National Guard	110	26	38	24	32	120	16	18	24	19	77	21	23*	27	71

Note: All figures above may be subject to change in future publications as updated information becomes available. Suicide counts are current as of November 5, 2015.

*Indicates a change from the previous QSR based on updated information